

No. 40 October 5, 1981

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

**Policy Concerning
China's Peaceful
Reunification**



**Chairman Hu on
Lu Xun & Current
Situation**



**Facts & Figures: 32
Years of Economic
Advances**



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Statement on National Reunification

In a statement to Xinhua, Chairman Ye Jianying of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress makes a 9-point elaboration on the policy for national reunification, proposing talks between the Communist Party of China and the Kuomintang for a third co-operation (p. 10).

National Day

Joyful celebrations mark the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic (p. 5).

Lu Xun Centenary

Full text of a major policy speech by Chairman Hu Yaobang (pp. 11-16).

Mao Zedong on Lu Xun, a Yanan speech of 1937 published for the first time (pp. 16-17).

Military Exercises

Military exercises in north China test the combat readiness of the People's Liberation Army (pp. 6-7).

Offshore Oil

Offshore geological prospecting has discovered six large oil and gas bearing basins (p. 8).

Public bidding for joint oil exploitation by Chinese and foreign corporations will soon begin (p. 9).

Economic Achievements Reviewed

Documentation of facts and figures showing the advances made by the People's Republic in the last 32 years (p. 18).

The Soviet Threat

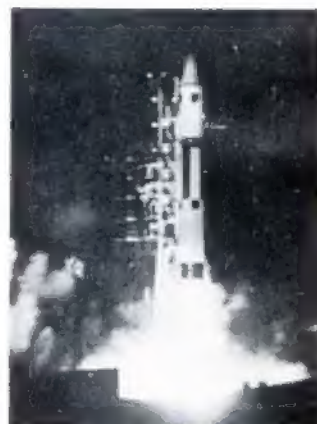
The head of the Chinese delegation to the UN General Assembly stresses that Soviet hegemonism is still a major threat to world peace (p. 23).

Ah Q on Stage

Ah Q, a famous peasant figure created by Lu Xun 60 years ago to epitomize an aberration in the pre-revolutionary Chinese national character, is now staged (p. 30).

Beijing Marathon

China holds its first international marathon race (p. 31).



On September 20 this year, China launched for the first time three spacephysics experiment satellites with a single carrier rocket. Picture shows the lifting-off of the rocket from the launching pad.

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CULTURE & SCIENCE 30-31

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Peace in Southeast Asia

Who actually threatens peace in Southeast Asia?

The Vietnamese authorities have raised a hue and cry about the so-called "threat from China." They have concocted lies, alleging that China should be held responsible for the tension in the Southeast Asian region. They are actually playing the trick of a thief crying "stop thief."

There is no such thing as "threat from China."

China needs a long period of peaceful international environment to carry out its modernization programme. It does not have a single soldier or military base abroad, and it will never seek any sphere of influence. In its foreign relations, China upholds the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries or carry out subversive activities against them. In short, what China wants is to live in friendship with all countries in the world.

With regard to the Southeast Asian countries, China is more than willing to establish relations of mutual trust with them. The relations between the Chinese Communist Party and the Communist Parties of those countries are only political and moral ones. It is the consistent stand of the Chinese Communist Party that all Parties are independent and that they should not interfere in each other's internal affairs. As to the atti-

tude of the various governments towards the Communist Parties in their countries, it is for them to decide.

Viet Nam has invaded and occupied Kampuchea, fostered a puppet regime and established a military and colonial rule in the occupied areas on the strength of its 200,000 aggressor troops. Taking a hostile attitude towards the UN resolutions, it has to this day refused to pull out its troops from Kampuchea. Laos is now entirely controlled by Viet Nam which has stationed 50,000 to 80,000 troops there. Moreover, Viet Nam has massed large numbers of troops along the Kampuchea-Thailand border, repeatedly encroached upon Thai territory and sent special agents across the border to carry out provocative and sabotage activities in Thailand.

Viet Nam has deployed about 60 per cent of its troops along the Sino-Vietnamese border, while the Kampuchean resistance movement has pinned down 200,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops. Had it not been for this, Viet Nam would probably have struck out at the ASEAN countries long ago.

Viet Nam practises regional hegemonism. It has no support from China and is opposed by the ASEAN countries and many other countries in other parts of the world, but the Soviet Union connives at and supports its actions. Soviet-Vietnamese collaboration, which is based on their common hegemonist goals,

is the root cause of turbulence in Southeast Asia and is the real threat to peace in that region.

China does not wish to establish a sphere of influence in Southeast Asia, nor does it wish to bring about the collapse of Viet Nam. When the Vietnamese authorities abandon their hegemonist ambitions and pull out their troops from Kampuchea, China will on its part do everything possible to restore normal relations with Viet Nam.

China's stand regarding the political solution of the Kampuchean issue is known to all. China supports the holding of elections in Kampuchea under United Nations supervision after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. The Kampuchean people should be allowed to choose their own social system, and Kampuchea's independence, neutrality and policy of non-alignment should be respected. China has no intention at all of turning Kampuchea into its own satellite country.

—International Editor
Mu Youlin



LETTERS

Literary Criticism

I have read over and over again the article "More on Literary Criticism" in "Notes From the Editors" (issue No. 35). Recently, Japanese newspapers have been carrying many disturbing reports about this issue. But after reading your article, I feel at ease. In this regard, I would like to suggest that you expand "Notes From the Editors." What is your opinion? I think readers like "Notes From the Editors" better than "Letters."

Katsutoshi Kato
Nagoya, Japan

The literary and art circles which were held back for a long time have just begun to come alive again. Literary criticism has also started recently. Of course, literature and art should be put on the right track through self-criticism. The three principles raised by the editors in "More on Literary Criticism" are good. But, I feel worried that too many works from the literary and art circles and other fields might be criticized soon after their appearance. No doubt, immediate criticism is an important thing for socialism, but it is also fraught with dangers. I think there should be more freedom for the literary and art circles. It will not be too late to make criticism after a long period of observation with a broad-minded attitude. Can it be said that my idea is not earnest? If criticism is conducted in this way, I am convinced that there will be more works which cover a wide range of subjects and bring more glory to the socialist country.

Michiko Okamoto
Sendai, Japan

Thank you for your frank opinions. "Notes From the Editors" carried articles on literary criticism in issues Nos. 21, 35 and 38. Our magazine also carried articles

"Achievements and Problems in Cultural and Artistic Work" and "We Need Literary and Art Criticism" in issue No. 38. We suggest that you read Chairman Hu Yaobang's speech at the meeting commemorating the centenary of the birth of Lu Xun in the current issue. Please let us know your opinions. — Ed.

Socialist Democracy

I have read the article "Socialist Democracy" by Su Shaozhi in issue No. 32. I feel the article is abstract and does not explain things clearly. For instance, the article said with certainty that a highly developed democracy means democracy in political life, social life and economic life, and it ensures that the people are the real masters of the state, society and enterprises. But this article does not explain how this kind of democracy looks like, how to concretely realize it. What forms and measures does it have? What are the organizations that exist now and what organizations will be set up in the future? What is the proportion between direct democracy and the representative system? How are the masses guaranteed that they can participate in the politics in the localities. Can you carry more articles on these topics?

M. F. R.
Monchengladbach,
W. Germany

Sino-Soviet Boundary Negotiations

I feel that articles on the Sino-Soviet boundary question (Nos. 30 and 31) are particularly inspiring. I think that the experiences of negotiations with the Soviet Union will arouse universal interest. Through these experiences, people will have a better understanding of the attitude of the other Soviet neighbouring countries.

Trotzker Neumann
Bonn, W. Germany

Your journal carried articles on the Sino-Soviet boundary question in issues Nos. 30 and 31. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chinese people who have launched a resourceful struggle for their just cause against the Kremlin social-imperialism and its provocative attitude. The Soviet Government has done whatever it likes in the disputed areas along the Sino-Soviet borders and has forgot the 1964 negotiations and the meeting between Kosygin and Zhou Enlai at Beijing Airport on September 11, 1969.

Pascal Beltran del Rio
Mexico City, Mexico

Cover and Others

I have seen covers of three issues which are simple and unadorned. I think they are well arranged. It would be even better to carry pictures of China's places of historic interest and scenic beauty of worldwide significance. I myself am interested in the cover of issue No. 26. In addition, the layout and pictures are good.

E.P.C.
Caracas, Venezuela

For the German readers, there should be a big and attractive picture on the cover. Sometimes, a heading should be added to the picture. Two pictures of yours in issue No. 35 are not to our taste.

I am interested in "Highlights of the Week" and I think the position is good on the second page. I suggest that the third page should begin with "Letters," followed by "Notes From the Editors."

Hansjosef Theyssen
Aachen, W. Germany

In my opinion, instead of a photograph on the cover, you should use an artist's caption, a drawing, a painting, or a scene in black and white as illustration in handwork. It would be more effective and noticeable.

Frances H. Jacobsen
Hayward, CA., USA

CORRECTION: In our last issue, page 3, 3rd column, 1st paragraph, 9th line, "The output of ... 450,000 tons" should read: "For instance, in 1980 compared with 1978, the output of cotton rose by 380,000 tons and peanuts, 450,000 tons in Shandong Province."

POLITICAL

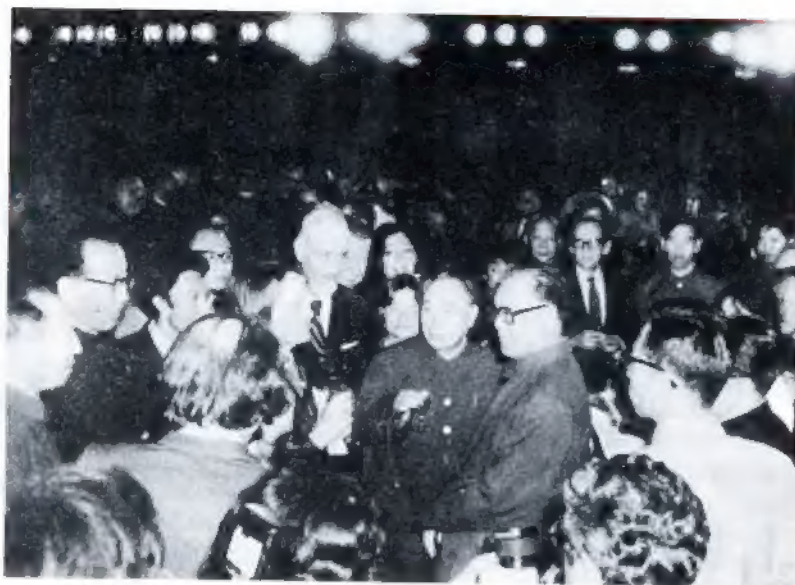
National Day

Full of confidence, the Chinese people celebrated on October 1 the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic.

That day, a festive atmosphere prevailed in Beijing. A portrait of the late Chairman Mao Zedong was hung on the wall of the Tian An Men tower and portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin as well as that of Dr. Sun Yat-sen stood at Tian An Men Square. Along the Changan Avenue which runs east and west through Tian An Men Square, many government offices and shops were decorated with red silk streamers and huge red lanterns. That evening a gala theatrical performance was given in the Great Hall of the People.

National Day Reception. On the afternoon of September 30, Premier Zhao Ziyang hosted a reception in the Great Hall of the People. Over 500 people, including leading comrades of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council, people of all walks of life and foreign guests, attended.

Reviewing China's political and economic achievements, Premier Zhao declared that 1981 is a year of great significance for the Chinese people. The Communist Party of China has summed up its experiences during the 32 years after the birth of New China, distinguished right from wrong, helped the Chinese people achieve greater unity in their thinking, strengthened their solidarity and in-



Premier Zhao at the National Day reception.

spired them with greater confidence. Fairly good progress has been made too in the national economy. Though China still faces many difficulties, they will be overcome one by one. There are bright prospects for China's socialist construction.

Specially, the Premier noted:

— Despite floods and severe droughts in many areas, the grain crop is expected to be close to the record harvest of 1979 and the various cash crops will register an all-round increase.

— Industrial sectors are progressing towards balance and a certain growth rate has been maintained. Heavy industry is readjusting its orientation of service and light industry has made fairly big headway.

— Prices on the market are basically stable. China can expect to achieve in the main a balance between revenues and expenditures.

Premier Zhao pointed out: Chairman Ye Jianying's state-

ment on the return of Taiwan to the motherland for the peaceful reunification of China fully reflects the common desire and fundamental interests of the Chinese people of all nationalities, including compatriots in Taiwan. Zhao also expressed the hope that the compatriots in Taiwan will make contributions to an early realization of the nation's great unity, and the Kuomintang authorities, guided by the national interests, will join hands and co-operate with the Chinese Communist Party for the third time.

As regards China's foreign policy, Zhao Ziyang declared: China needs peace. On the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, China will develop multifarm co-operation and exchanges with various countries and promote friendship with all peoples. Together with all other peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and peoples, China will make unremitting efforts to oppose hegemonism and maintain world peace.



Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee, on the reviewing stand.

Armoured units and the air force fighting in co-ordination.

Military Exercises

The Beijing Units and the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army recently carried out military exercises under modern conditions in north China.

Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Military Commission of the

CPC Central Committee, watched the exercises and reviewed the army and air force units taking part in the exercises and some naval units.

Hu Yaobang, Chairman of the Party Central Committee, Zhao Ziyang, Li Xiannian, Hua Guofeng and other Party and state leaders also watched the ex-

ercises and reviewed the participating units.

The aim of the exercises was to report to the Party and the people what has been achieved in building up a modernized and regular People's Liberation Army. Participating in the exercises were units which had distinguished themselves in



Infantry men launching a counterattack with the help of tanks.



Party and state leaders on the reviewing stand.

action in the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-37), War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45), War of Liberation (1946-49) and the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53). They included artillery and armoured units, engineering corps and other technical forces as well as air force units and paratroopers.

The exercises were carefully planned, with all the units coordinating closely. A mimic battle between the "red" and "blue" armies displayed the new features of a modern war. The exercises testify that the commanders and fighters have inherited and carried forward the PLA's fine revolutionary traditions and fighting style and demonstrated their superb organization and discipline, unique commanding techniques and excellent tactical and technical skills. The exercises also showed that the PLA has greatly improved its weapons and equipment.

Lu Xun Centenary

The centenary of the birth of the great Chinese writer, thinker and revolutionary Lu Xun (1881-1936) was commemorated at a meeting in Bei-

jing on September 25. Among the 6,000 people who attended were Party and state leaders Hu Yaobang, Ye Jianying, Zhao Ziyang, Chen Yun, Hua Guofeng and representatives from all walks of life in the capital. Foreign friends from various countries in Asia, Europe and America, diplomatic envoys, experts working in China and correspondents also attended.

Deng Yingchao, chairman of a special committee for commemorating Lu Xun's 100th birthday, presided over the meeting. In her opening address, Deng Yingchao said that the commemorative activities this year were unprecedented in scale and that the forms taken were multifarious. This, she said, fully showed Lu Xun's profound influence and the great significance of commemorating him. She expressed the conviction that these activities would help the people of all nationalities in the country gain a deeper understanding of Lu Xun so as to carry forward his militant, revolutionary spirit and promote the building of socialist ethics.

Chairman of the CPC Central Committee Hu Yaobang made an important speech at the meeting. (For full text of his speech see p. 11.)

In his report to the meeting Zhou Yang, first vice-chairman of the special committee for commemorating Lu Xun's 100th birthday, gave a brief account of Lu Xun's life and analysed the historical conditions that gave birth to this great writer, thinker and revolutionary. Zhou Yang also dealt with the process of development of Lu Xun's thinking and his great contributions, pointing out that Lu Xun's road is the typical road followed by 20th-century outstanding Chinese intellectuals in search of truth and progress, advancing from patriotism and democracy to socialism and communism.

Lu Xun's most outstanding historical contribution, Zhou Yang said, was the fact that, with his splendid achievements on the cultural front, he pointed out an entirely new direction for the culture of the Chinese nation, a direction which may be briefly summed up as the building of a national, scientific and mass culture. The orientation represented by Lu Xun, Zhou Yang added, has not become outdated with the accomplishment of the new-democratic revolution but will be carried forward with the progress of socialist modernization. The legacy handed down by Lu Xun is indisputably the beacon light

鲁迅诞生一百周年纪念大会



The hall where the Beijing commemorative meeting was held.

guiding the development of Chinese culture.

The revolutionary writers and artists with Lu Xun as the representative have opened up broad vistas for China's new culture, Zhou Yang stressed. Chinese literature and art will surely flourish as long as we adhere to the policy of making them serve the people and socialism, uphold the principle of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend," and arm our ranks with Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought.

Commemorative meetings also took place in the various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions across the country.

A national symposium, the largest ever, was held on September 17-25 in Beijing in commemoration of the occasion. Altogether, 160 essays were submitted from all over the country. In Shanghai, where Lu Xun had lived for a long time and fought until his death, the people visited his old residence and the Lu Xun Museum. Local Party and government leaders

and writers and artists, together with Lu Xun's son Zhou Haiying, paid homage to his tomb. In Tianjin, the municipal Party committee and government have set up a Lu Xun award for literary and art workers who have made important contributions.

Plays and films adapted from Lu Xun's works were staged or shown in various places, and some of his works were republished, and reminiscences and essays on Lu Xun were put out.



ECONOMIC

China's Offshore Oil Resources

Offshore geological prospecting covering an area of one million square kilometres has been completed and six large oil and gas bearing basins have been found. They are in the Bohai Bay, south Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Zhujiang (Pearl) River estuary¹, Beibu Bay² and Yingge Sea³.

The earliest discovered basin was in the Bohai Bay. It covers an area of 80,000 square kilometres and is the natural extension of the Shengli⁴, Dagang⁵ and Liaohe⁶ Oilfields in the north China basin. Altogether, the land and offshore oil and gas bearing areas occupy a total area of 180,000 square kilometres.

The most promising oilfield is the East China Sea basin covering an area of 460,000 square kilometres. The long strip of area off the east coast of Zhejiang in this basin has the largest oil and gas bearing structures ever discovered in China. The Longjing No. 1 Well, which was drilled there

Bidding for Offshore Oil Exploitation to Start Soon

The Ministry of Petroleum Industry recently announced that physical exploration and assessment of oil deposits at the Zhujiang (Pearl) River estuary in the South China Sea, the Yingge Sea, Beibu Bay and the southern part of the Yellow Sea have basically been completed. It is decided that public bidding for joint oil exploitation by Chinese and foreign corporations will begin towards the end of this year or early next year at the latest.

Since the latter half of 1979, 48 oil companies from 13 countries have taken part in physical exploration in the South China Sea and the southern part of the Yellow Sea. Chinese and foreign experts taking part in the exploration are unanimous that the South China Sea and the south Yellow Sea have rich oil deposits.

in February this year, yields high pressure oil and gas.

Offshore geological prospecting for oil in China started in 1957.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Togolese President In China

President Gnassingbe Eyadema of the Republic of Togo paid an official visit to China from September 25 to 29. While he was in Beijing, Premier Zhao Ziyang gave a banquet in his honour. Chairman Hu Yaobang and Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping met with him on separate occasions.

Premier Zhao Ziyang held talks with President Eyadema. They exchanged views on cur-

rent international issues of common concern and on the development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries. They had a broad spectrum of converging views on many major international issues.

International Situation. During the talks Premier Zhao pointed out that the two superpowers, the Soviet Union in particular, are the sources of the mounting tension and turbulence throughout the world. The Soviet Union has intensified its quest for world hegemony and become more ambitious than before. The people of the world need to heighten their vigilance.

China's Foreign Policy. Zhao Ziyang stressed that China's foreign policy is still based on Chairman Mao Zedong's theory of the three worlds. China will for ever be with the other third world countries, and it is its established policy to develop friendly relations and co-operation with them. China's present policy of opening to the outside world and expanding exchanges with the developed countries does not mean that China will weaken its relations and co-operation with the other third world countries.

Premier Zhao Ziyang reiterated China's firm support for the African people in their just struggle against imperialism, hegemonism and colonialism. He paid high tribute to the African countries for doing their best to overcome the difficulties caused by the economic crises some developed countries have shifted on to them and for their efforts to work for the establishment of a new international economic order.

The African Continent. Referring to the situation in Africa,



Premier Zhao Ziyang with Togolese President Eyadema.

President Eyadema said that the African countries which have won independence politically should strive for economic independence. "Only after winning economic independence can we say that we have won genuine political independence," he said. "Therefore, there is an urgent need for a peaceful and secure environment and the elimination of all unstable factors."

The President strongly condemned the interference of the big powers in African affairs.

Relations Between China and Togo. There have been satisfactory developments in friendly co-operation in the political, economic and cultural fields between China and Togo since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

During President Eyadema's visit, a cultural agreement between the two governments was signed in Beijing on September 27.

Interview With Xinhua Correspondent

Chairman Ye Jianying's Elaborations on Policy Concerning Return of Taiwan To Motherland and Peaceful Reunification

YE JIANYING, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, in an interview with a Xinhua correspondent on September 30, 1981, elaborated on the policy concerning the return of Taiwan to the motherland for the realization of China's peaceful reunification.

The full text of his statement follows:

Today, on the eve of the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and at the approach of the 70th anniversary of the 1911 Revolution, I wish, first of all, to extend my festive greetings and cordial regards to the people of all nationalities throughout the country, including the compatriots in Taiwan, Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao), and Chinese nationals residing in foreign countries.

On New Year's Day 1979, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued a message to the compatriots in Taiwan, in which it proclaimed the policy of striving to reunify the motherland peacefully. The message received warm support and active response from the people of all nationalities throughout China, including the compatriots in Taiwan, Xianggang and Aomen, and those residing abroad. A relaxed atmosphere has set in across the Taiwan Straits. Now, I would take this opportunity to elaborate on the policy concerning the return of Taiwan to the motherland for the realization of peaceful reunification:

(1) In order to bring an end to the unfortunate separation of the Chinese nation as early as possible, we propose that talks be held between the Communist Party of China and the Kuomintang of China on a reciprocal basis so

that the two parties will co-operate for the third time to accomplish the great cause of national reunification. The two sides may first send people to meet for an exhaustive exchange of views.

(2) It is the urgent desire of the people of all nationalities on both sides of the straits to communicate with each other, reunite with their families and relatives, develop trade and increase mutual understanding. We propose that the two sides make arrangements to facilitate the exchange of mails, trade, air and shipping services, family reunions and visits by relatives and tourists as well as academic, cultural and sports exchanges, and reach an agreement thereupon.

(3) After the country is reunified, Taiwan can enjoy a high degree of autonomy as a special administrative region and it can retain its armed forces. The Central Government will not interfere with local affairs on Taiwan.

(4) Taiwan's current socio-economic system will remain unchanged, so will its way of life and its economic and cultural relations with foreign countries. There will be no encroachment on the proprietary rights and lawful right of inheritance over private property, houses, land and enterprises, or on foreign investments.

(5) People in authority and representative personages of various circles in Taiwan may take up posts of leadership in national political bodies and participate in running the state.

(6) When Taiwan's local finance is in difficulty, the Central Government may subsidize it as is fit for the circumstances.

(7) For people of all nationalities and public figures of various circles in Taiwan who

wish to come and settle on the mainland, it is guaranteed that proper arrangements will be made for them, that there will be no discrimination against them, and that they will have the freedom of entry and exit.

(8) Industrialists and businessmen in Taiwan are welcome to invest and engage in various economic undertakings on the mainland, and their legal rights, interests and profits are guaranteed.

(9) The reunification of the motherland is the responsibility of all Chinese. We sincerely welcome people of all nationalities, public figures of all circles and all mass organizations in Taiwan to make proposals and suggestions regarding affairs of state through various channels and in various ways.

Taiwan's return to the embrace of the motherland and the accomplishment of the great cause of national reunification is a great and glorious mission history has bequeathed on our generation. China's reunification and prosperity is in the vital interest of the Chinese people of all nationalities — not only those on the main-

land, but those in Taiwan as well. It is also in the interest of peace in the Far East and the world.

We hope that our compatriots in Taiwan will give full play to their patriotism and work energetically for the early realization of the great unity of our nation and share the honour of it. We hope that our compatriots in Xianggang and Aomen and Chinese nationals residing abroad will continue to act in the role of a bridge and contribute their share to the reunification of the motherland.

We hope that the Kuomintang authorities will stick to their one-China position and their opposition to "two Chinas" and that they will put national interests above everything else, forget previous ill will and join hands with us in accomplishing the great cause of national reunification and the great goal of making China prosperous and strong, so as to win glory for our ancestors, bring benefit to our posterity and write a new and glorious page in the history of the Chinese nation!

(Xinhua News Agency, September 30, 1981, Beijing)

Chairman Hu Yaobang's Speech

—At the meeting in commemoration of the centenary of Lu Xun's birth

• Lu Xun was a great hero in China's modern revolutionary history, a great figure in the cultural and ideological fields. His achievements are immortal.

• There have been many achievements in literature and art. However, certain unhealthy, negative features remain. To promote the healthy development of literature and art, it is necessary to practise appropriate criticism and self-criticism.

• There are various dark phenomena in our present socialist society. The overcoming of these must be a continuous struggle, a long-term and unrelenting one.

Comrades and Friends:

Lu Xun was a great hero in China's modern revolutionary history, a great fighter on the cultural and ideological fronts. His revolutionary spirit and the rich ideological legacy he left to us have won growing respect from our people in the 45 years since his death. At this meeting today to commemorate the centenary of his birth, we must learn from his revolutionary spirit and commemorate his immortal achievements.

A True Marxist and Communist

Lu Xun lived during a dark period of acute national crisis, when China was controlled by imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, and the people were cruelly enslaved and oppressed. On the eve of the 1911 Revolution,

he took up writing and ideological work with the aim of reforming China. The failure of that revolution bewildered and distressed him, but did not stop him from pressing forward. As a revolutionary democrat he took an active part in the May 4th new cultural movement of 1919. When some bourgeois intellectuals of the Right wing of the May 4th Movement grew apathetic and retrogressive, he continued to use his brilliant creative writing and acute ideological criticism to fight resolutely and unremittingly against all the old forces impeding China's progress. He showed immense enthusiasm for the 1925-27 revolution in which the Chinese Communist Party took part and which it led. After the defeat of this revolution he made fresh headway in his thinking. Our country has had many intellectuals who started out as petty-bourgeois or bourgeois revolutionary democrats, then became proletarian communist fighters. Lu Xun was the most outstanding. In the last eight or nine years of his life, he integrated his profound knowledge of Chinese history and rich experience of combating the old forces with the proletarian revolutionary stand and scientific Marxist thinking.

The militancy of his works and their educational value were unprecedented in the history of Chinese culture. When the military and cultural contingents led by the Party were engaged in a struggle to the death with the KMT reactionaries, Lu Xun took the lead in breaking through the counter-revolutionary cultural "encirclement and mopping-up" campaign. All his life he was a fighter. In his eager search for the truth he never ceased pressing ahead, and always stood in the forefront of his age.

Lu Xun embraced the communist world outlook after many years of active struggle and independent thinking; hence his faith in it was unwavering. Under the fascist reign of terror he publicly proclaimed, "The future belongs only to the rising proletariat." He saw that the Chinese Communist Party and the Red Army of Workers and Peasants led by it were the hope of China. Before the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan in the 30s, our Party underwent great difficulties because of the weakness of the people's revolutionary force and the serious setbacks caused by its leaders' mistaken Leftist line. Even so, Lu Xun firmly believed in the Party, and sided with it till his dying day. This showed his splendid revolutionary spirit and his farsightedness. Short-sighted people who lose heart over the least setback cannot compare with his revolutionary spirit;



Chairman Hu delivering the speech.

neither can those who have illusions about revolution, so that unless it produces a paradise overnight they jeer at it or curse it. Lu Xun was well aware that the revolutionary road could not be smooth or straight; it was bound to be thorny and tortuous. Acutely grasping the requirements of the age, regardless of personal danger he unhesitatingly threw in his lot with the people's revolutionary cause. Lu Xun never joined the Party, but he was a true Marxist and Communist.

Lu Xun spearheaded his attacks against imperialism, feudalism and their henchmen. Completely staunch, he showed extraordinary steadfastness and courage in this fight. In the revolutionary camp and in progressive literary and art circles, he was all for uniting against the enemy. He opposed Rightist capitulationism, as well as the mistaken policies of Leftist empty talk and adventurism. His public spirit made him point out and condemn the shortcomings and mistakes of his comrades-in-arms, never glossing over them; and though his strictures may sometimes have been too severe, they were always well-meant, profound and enlightening, helping to straighten out his comrades' thinking. Lu Xun was very strict with himself. He said, "It is true that I constantly dissect other people, but I dissect myself more often and more ruthlessly." And this was no empty claim. Lu Xun expended much time and energy on training young people. He encouraged and taught them by his own example, giving them the strength and knowledge to advance.

Lu Xun's main weapon was literature. Regarding the relationship between literature and society, he forcefully debunked such

theories as that which considered literature and art as an outburst of individual "inspiration." He pointed out that it was a delusion to want to leave the battlefield during a battle, to be independent. He stressed that revolutionary literature and art belonged to the masses and was created for them. It was a tool to reform society, a reflex action, a means of attack and defence. Literature and art must describe society accurately and forcefully, and in turn influence society, to deepen and broaden the revolution and impel society forward. Lu Xun's whole literary career makes it clear that he paid great attention to the social effect of writing. The works he gave the people were as perfect as he could make them in regard to both content and form. He pointed out that writers without a firm revolutionary stand often distorted the revolution, and might use so-called revolutionary writing to peddle their own mistaken views to the detriment of the revolution. He believed that revolutionary writers and artists must be responsible to the people, especially to the youth. It was criminal to lead young people astray with their own mistaken views. The main thing for a revolutionary writer, he said, was first to become a revolutionary. He should be "one of the people" and throw in his lot with the revolution, keeping his finger on its pulse, sharing the grief, anger and joy of ordinary people. This was the only way to produce revolutionary literature and art.

Lu Xun emphasized the importance of literary criticism, saying we must have "criticism of literature." The task of such criticism was to "root up the weeds and water the flowers." Without criticism, literature and art can make no progress. Critics should have a clear sense of right and wrong, affirming what is right and pointing out what is wrong, to benefit writers and artists as well as the people. Lu Xun worked tirelessly, with amazing industry. He urged young people to work unremittingly, and warned them not to think that publishing a few essays or magazines for a year or so was a great, unprecedented feat. Lu Xun died only 18 years after the May 4th Movement, yet in this relatively short period, although his conditions were extremely hard his creative writing totalled 4 million characters and his translations 3 million—all of a high standard. Nearly all these works still retain their tremendous appeal and power to enlighten readers, their right to be passed down to posterity.

Lu Xun was a great patriot and a great internationalist. He attached the highest im-

portance to cultural exchanges between China and other countries, and devoted much energy to introducing progressive literature from foreign countries. He showed concern for and supported the liberation struggles of the world's oppressed nations and peoples. In the international anti-fascist struggle in the 30s, he was a brave and resolute internationalist fighter.

Comrades and friends!

Unfortunately Lu Xun died too early to see the epoch-making changes brought about in this great country in the east by all China's nationalities, led by the Communist Party. However, Lu Xun's prophecy two years before his death that a new socialist society would certainly emerge has already come true.

Owing to many past mistakes, our Party has inherited a host of problems which have not yet been properly resolved; but despite the difficulties in our way which must still be overcome, our whole Party, army and people of all nationalities are increasingly confident. In the last few years our Party Central Committee, in the light of historical experience and the people's wishes, has laid down a line and policies and taken basic measures which have proved correct and highly effective. We shall undoubtedly reach our goal, which is to build up China into a powerful modern, highly democratic and cultured socialist country.

Our work is making headway from year to year. As everyone can see, things are better this year than last. After studying and discussing the resolution of the Party's Sixth Plenary Session, the political unity of our whole Party, our army and the multinational people of the whole country is stronger than ever before. Our decisions on readjustment and reforms are being carried out, so that the national economy has begun to advance steadily along the road of healthy development. Although a number of provinces and regions have been hard hit by flood or drought, we can state confidently that this year will see an overall, fairly large increase in agricultural output.

Present Situation and Task in Literature And Art

The past few years our Party has affirmed, and continues to affirm that most comrades on the literary and art front, just as on other fronts, have been taking a correct stand, have worked hard and well. This is one of the fields with many achievements to its credit. However, while fully affirming the main trends of our

literature and art, we must point out that it still has certain unhealthy, negative features which harm the people. You all remember the series of the talks which our Party had about this in the winter of 1979 and in spring last year. In our cordial discussions with writers and artists, many new proposals were made for enriching our literature and art. Unfortunately, writers and artists have not paid sufficient attention to these proposals.

To promote the healthy development of literature and art, it is absolutely necessary to practise criticism and self-criticism correctly. At present, many good works do not receive the praise they deserve, nor do certain pernicious works receive forceful criticism and condemnation. In both cases, there is a lack of Marxist scientific analysis and appraisal.

Many comrades and friends understand the importance of literary and art criticism. But some of them are unduly apprehensive, afraid of destroying the renewed flourishing of literature and art. They fail to take an overall view, firstly because they are weak dialecticians. If we allow weeds and flowers to grow together, without the requisite struggle, there is bound to be chaos in our literature and art. Secondly, they have not made a full assessment of our Party's correct summary of the positive and negative experience in developing literary and art criticism, which should enable us to obviate interference from any side.

The Central Committee has carefully instructed the whole Party, and will continue to do so, to adopt an analytical approach to writers, artists, theoreticians, publishers or those working in the mass media who publish seriously mistaken views. They must differentiate between different cases and treat them all correctly.

Some comrades have done well and written many good works, then owing to a temporary aberration have published harmful writings. We cannot because of this negate their achievements; but neither can we condone pernicious writing because of their past contributions. Certain comrades unjustly treated in the past feel somewhat resentful. This is understandable. But if they nurse resentment against the Party and the socialist system when observing society and writing new works, this is entirely wrong. By means of persuasion and criticism we should help them to revise such harmful works or to scrap them. Our Party has rescinded or scrapped directives which practice has proved to be mistaken. Cannot our writers and artists do the

same and promote this style, which far from making anyone lose face redounds greatly to his credit?

Some writers persist in their erroneous writing because they lack a correct understanding of our people and of the great cause undertaken by our nation. The situation in this case is rather more complex. Some put themselves in a wrong relationship to the people. In Lu Xun's words, they have opted out of the people's actual struggle, and use fantasies they have dreamt up to write a few stories, making private capital out of the revolution. Others are unable to analyse our new society's development and the mistakes and setbacks which are hard to avoid in the course of revolution. They do not understand Lu Xun's saying that fighters with faults are still fighters, while beautiful flies are still flies. Their works are what Lu Xun described as the literature of complaints and discontent. Lu Xun, living in dark old China, declared incisively that if a nation had only literature of complaints and discontent there was no hope for it. Not to say that our writers are living in a new socialist age.

Yet others lack faith in the socialist system. Lu Xun said that people who had no faith in their country, nation or people would put their faith in foreign or capitalist countries. And this would lead ultimately to self-deception, which would deceive the people and cause them suffering themselves. How can the people of our country tolerate the wrong trends and approaches to writing just described? We should all come forward to criticize and resist works of this kind as well as those who thrust them on the public, especially on young readers with little experience of life. In this way we can educate and unite our people, and at the same time educate and help the writers who have committed these mistakes.

There is something else I would like to discuss with you all, that is, the people of another type who have an ingrained hatred for New China, socialism and our Party. There are such people in our new society. As Lu Xun said: Even a lion has pests preying on it. He also spoke of people who disguised themselves to stab others in the back. I am definitely not implying that there are many people like this in China, still less that they have the power to turn back the wheel of history. I am simply telling you that our Party believes we must remain on our guard against such people, however few and exceptional they are. It is dangerous to

underestimate them. We must punish them by law for their counter-revolutionary activities.

I have told you our Party's views regarding the present wrong trends in literature and art and other ideological fields, and the chief ways to deal with them. I believe that the majority of our writers and artists and the masses will approve of them, but this is also bound to give rise to some talk at home and abroad. Some people may raise a hubbub or even swear at us—that does not matter. As Lu Xun rightly said, no one in ancient or modern times has been overthrown by curses. It was not because of curses that people were overthrown, but because their masks had been torn off. Our Party has been cursed for scores of years without being overthrown. Those who spread rumours to deceive the masses will ultimately be exposed and have not a leg to stand on.

Some of you may wonder why only ideological circles, and not other fronts, are called on to undertake criticism and self-criticism. Is the ideological field the only one with negative aspects?

This is a misunderstanding. Our Party has always believed that much has been achieved on every front, but at the same time many problems remain. All our work has its bright side, and that is its main aspect. It also has its dark side, which must not be overlooked.

At present in our work, among our cadres, Party members and government workers, apart from the wrong trend of bourgeois liberalism of certain people on the ideological front, there are various negative elements on other fronts too. For example, certain leading cadres in leading Party organizations are cut off from reality and the masses. They neither study problems nor solve them. They stick to old rules, show no interest in necessary reforms; they are highly irresponsible bureaucrats, not carrying out the tasks given them by the Party and the people. Some comrades in certain departments, primarily certain departments dealing with the economy, lack a comprehensive view. They dispute or refuse to carry out tasks which do not benefit their departmental interests or are not to their liking. This is the mistake of selfish departmentalism which injures the whole country's interests. Some cadres in certain factories and enterprises or rural communes go counter to the Party and government's long-term policy of giving consideration to the interests of the country, the collective and the individual. While claiming to represent

the interests of the masses, they actually represent the backward ideas of certain workers and peasants, seizing every chance to take advantage of the state or ask for high prices. This is against the interests of the country. Certain cadres flagrantly ignore Party discipline and the laws of the country, using the power entrusted to them by the Party and the people to feather their own nests, sometimes going so far as to ask for gifts or accept bribes from foreigners. This disgraceful conduct disgraces the country too. All such negative elements must be dealt with seriously, we must use correct methods to overcome them resolutely.

Rectifying Wrong Trends by Criticism

There are various dark phenomena in our present socialist society, and there will continue to be some for a long time. This is quite understandable. But socialist society cannot tolerate these abuses left over from the old society. Our Party has always proposed mobilizing and relying on the people to struggle against these evils. This struggle will take not just a few days or a couple of years, but must be a continuous one, a long-term, unrelenting struggle of the kind advocated by Lu Xun.

What is the most effective method of fighting? Neither a confused, hectic struggle nor laissez-faire. Decades of experience have taught us that the only effective method, among the ranks of the people, is to restore and develop our Party's tried and tested fine tradition of criticism and self-criticism. We must do this step by step, first in the Party, then outside the Party, first among the cadres, then among the masses, to enable our people after a period of time to learn to use this weapon correctly.

Some people say, if good use is made of this weapon, comrades with serious mistakes will become good comrades, while good comrades will become even better. Of course this is right, but it is still not enough. Our Party believes this an excellent way for our whole Party, whole army and the different nationalities of our whole country to educate themselves, to consolidate and develop the political situation characterized by stability, unity and liveliness throughout the country, to raise the consciousness of all our nationalities, to promote the fine moral qualities of the new society, and to build up a socialist civilization. In other words it is a treasure.

Our Party believes that comrades in literary

and art circles and on the whole ideological front have an extremely important role to play in learning how to use this treasure correctly. If you on the cultural front are good troops with good weapons, you can be of great assistance to the Party in carrying out the historic task of building up a splendid socialist culture. The reason why our Party is so eager for all of you first to overcome the negative factors in your own ranks, and promote the positive factors, is entirely because of this positive goal. Our Party believes that after steeling and tempering the revolutionary army on the ideological front, which has made such great contributions in the past, can certainly take up this glorious task.

Comrades and friends!

In February last year, at a forum on drama I said that our socialist culture needed to reach three new pinnacles in ideology and theory, science and technology and literature and art. We are toiling up a rough, winding mountain track. Overhead tempests rage, below are sheer precipices, and we are weighed down with many

burdens, to say nothing of all our wounds. Can we scale the heights of ideology and theory, science and technology, literature and art? Will some of us fall out of the ranks or desert? That I cannot say. All I can say is that our Party has learnt from the past and will never abandon comrades loyal to the Party, the people and our great cause, nor will our Party abandon those comrades who have made mistakes but are willing to correct them. In short, our way is long and dangerous; we must advance hand in hand, closely united. We also must strengthen friendly relations with progressive writers, artists and other intellectuals of all countries, absorb all their good achievements, and together with them advance hand in hand for the peace of the world and human progress.

Today as we commemorate the centenary of the birth of Lu Xun, a great revolutionary and great standard-bearer on the ideological and cultural front, let us develop his revolutionary spirit, and do our utmost to enrich and foster the healthy development of our socialist culture.

(Introd. and subheads are ours.)

Mao Zedong on Lu Xun

The most important task of our North Shaanxi Institute today is to train a vanguard to resist the Japanese invasion. At a time when this great national war of self-defence is developing rapidly forward, we need large numbers of activists to provide leadership, large numbers of fine pioneers to open up the way. Such pioneers are frank, loyal, positive and upright; they do not seek private gain but act solely in the cause of national and social liberation; they do not fear difficulty and in the face of difficulty they remain firm and go boldly ahead; they are not brash louts, or the type to push themselves forward, but people whose feet are planted on solid ground and in whom the spirit of practicality abounds. Their function is to act as guides on the revolutionary road. In the present military situation, only the government and army are at war, and the

people at large are not taking part: this is no guarantee that the final victory will be ours. We must train now large numbers of pioneers who will struggle to the finish for national liberation, who will lead the masses and organize them to complete this historical task. First a vast national vanguard must be organized immediately. We the Communist Party are the vanguard of the proletariat, and at the same time we are the most thoroughly committed vanguard of national liberation. To complete this task we will fight hard to the finish

In commemorating Lu Xun today we must first know him, and understand the position he occupies in China's revolutionary history. We commemorate him not only because he wrote well and was a great literary figure, but also because he was an intrepid pioneer in the cause of national liberation, who gave very great assistance to the revolution. He was not a member of the Communist Party organization, but his thinking, actions and works are all Marxist. He was a non-Party Bolshevik. Especially in his later years, he manifested a more youthful vigour. He carried out a resolute strug-

This is a speech at a meeting at the North Shaanxi Institute at Yanan to commemorate the first anniversary of Lu Xun's passing. The document editing committee under the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party published the speech through the Xinhua News Agency on September 21, 1981

gle against the feudal powers and imperialism, persistently and unswervingly, and in an adverse environment where the enemy oppressed him and sought his destruction, he endured and resisted; just like our comrades at the North Shaanxi Institute who can diligently study revolutionary theory despite such material hardship, he was filled with the spirit of arduous struggle. The material facilities at the North Shaanxi Institute are poor, but there is truth here and freedom is in the air; it is a place where a revolutionary vanguard is being created

Lu Xun was born into a feudal society in the course of collapse, but he could turn round to look back at the rotten society which he had personal experience and at the evil forces of imperialism. With his biting, witty and powerful brush he sketched the ugly features of the powers of darkness, and the evil face of imperialism; he was, simply, an artist of a high order. In the last few years he stood on the side of the proletariat and national liberation, fighting for truth and freedom. The first characteristic of Lu Xun was his political farsightedness. He observed society with a telescope and with a microscope, so that he saw far and saw true. In 1936 he courageously pointed out the dangerous tendencies of the Trotskyites, and present events fully prove how correct and clear his understanding was.

As for Lu Xun's worth in China, he is in my view a Chinese sage of the first rank. If Confucius was the sage of feudal China, Lu Xun is the sage of modern China. To perpetuate his memory for all time, we have founded a Lu Xun Library in Yanan and opened a Lu Xun Teachers School in Yanchang, to give future generations an idea of his greatness.

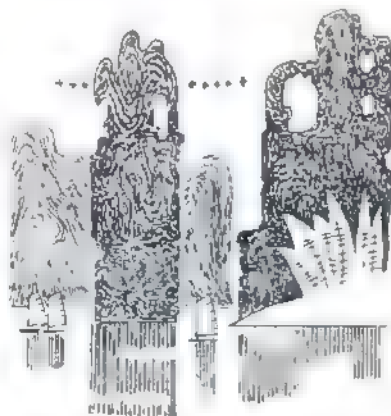
The second characteristic of Lu Xun was his fighting spirit. As already indicated, under attack by darkness and violence, he was a mighty tree, independent and self-sustaining, not a mere weed that sways from side to side. Once he perceived his political orientation, he fought boldly towards his goal, never capitulating or compromising. There are some half-hearted revolutionaries who initially take part in the struggle only to end up as deserters. Kautsky in Germany and Plekhanov in Russia are obvious examples. There are also quite a number of such people in China. Just as Lu Xun has said, everyone is Left and revolutionary to start off with, but when the oppression begins, some people recant at once and hand over their comrades

to the enemy as a gift to break the ice. Lu Xun hated people like this and fought against them, educating and training on every occasion the literary youth under his leadership, teaching them to struggle resolutely, to become pioneers and open up their own way.

The third characteristic of Lu Xun was his spirit of sacrifice. Not in the slightest did he fear the enemy's attempts at intimidation, corruption or injury, and not in the slightest did he avert his dagger-like pen from all he hated. He was always to be found amid the bloodstains of the battlers, resisting with toughness and resilience, roaring into the advance. Lu Xun was a thoroughgoing realist, without a trace of compromise and possessed of a resolute will. In one article he advocated "beating a dog in the water." If you don't beat the dog in the water, he said, it will bite you as soon as it jumps out, and the very least you can expect to get away with is to be splattered all over with filth and mud. He therefore advocated beating it to the finish. There was no trace in him of the false compassion of a hypocrite. At the present time, this mad dog, Japanese imperialism, has not yet been beaten by us into the water, and we must keep on beating it so that it cannot turn on us, until it has withdrawn beyond the borders of China. We must study this spirit of Lu Xun's and apply it throughout China.

A synthesis of these characteristics forms a great "Lu Xun spirit." Lu Xun's whole life is permeated with this spirit. Therefore, he became an outstanding literary writer and an excellent, seasoned pioneer in the revolutionary ranks. In commemorating Lu Xun we must study Lu Xun's spirit, bear it into the ranks of the War of Resistance throughout the country and struggle for the liberation of the Chinese nation!

(October 19, 1937)



China's Economic Achievements

by Liang Xiufeng

The resolution recently adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (see our issue No. 27) provided an overview of economic advances made since the founding of New China in 1949. This article gives additional important facts and figures. — Ed.

AFTER 1840 China, a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country, underwent more than a century of social upheaval and of destruction from wars. But after 1949 the situation was different. Despite its setbacks and mistakes in work, China still succeeded in establishing a socialist political and economic system, and developing an independent and fairly complete industrial network and an integrated economy. Such developments provide a sound technical and material foundation for the present modernization drive. The economic achievements of the last 32 years are:

1. The system of exploitation has been eliminated, public ownership of the means of production and the principle of distribution "to each according to his work" have been implemented.

After the establishment of New China, a nationwide agrarian reform movement was launched in the countryside, which abolished the feudal system of exploitation — an unrealized objective of China's democratic revolution. Then, through example, persuasion and education, the Party led the 500 million peasants in the co-operative transformation of agriculture. By 1956, 117.83 million peasant households, 96.3 per cent of the nation's total, had joined in agricultural producers' co-operatives. Of these, 107.42 million, 87.8 per cent of the total, were members of advanced co-operatives.

Towards the socialist transformation of the capitalist economy, we adopted two distinct policies. The bureaucrat-capitalist economy was expropriated and changed into the socialist state economy. But, towards the capitalist industry and commerce of the national bourgeoisie, we implemented a policy of utilization, restriction and transformation. We

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gradually brought the economic activities of this capitalist industry and commerce under the state plan. Moreover, a policy of buying out the owners was utilized, thus transforming capitalist private ownership of the means of production into socialist ownership by the whole people. By the end of 1956, some 70,000 capitalist industrial enterprises had been turned into state capitalist ones. Their total industrial output value accounted for 99.6 per cent of that of the original capitalist enterprises. In the same period, individual artisans and pedlars were organized into handicraft co-operatives and co-operative stores, thus changing their economies into a part of the socialist collective economy.

It was a herculean feat to accomplish this without a major setback in a country with a population of over 600 million at that time. On the whole, the productive forces were not harmed; progress was made in industry, agriculture and the whole national economy. But for a short period, mainly in 1956, owing to carelessness in work, too rapid transformation and oversimplification of forms in the co-operative movement of agriculture and transformation of the handicraft industry and individual merchants, some problems still remain unresolved.

2. Large-scale industrial construction has been carried out and an independent and fairly complete industrial network has been established.

In old China, the output value of modern industries only accounted for 10 per cent of the gross output value of industry and agriculture. Most of this was controlled by the imperialists. In 1949, the nation's gross output value of industry was 14,000 million yuan, about 25 yuan per capita. Output of some major manufactured goods was terribly low: The output of raw coal was 32 million tons; steel, 158,000 tons; metal-cutting machine tools, 1,600; cotton yarn, 327,000 tons; sugar, 200,000 tons; machine-made paper and cardboard, 110,000 tons. New China has had to construct its industry on this poor foundation.

The People's Republic of China has never neglected industrial construction. From 1952 when industrial production was restored to its record level, investment in the capital construc-

tion of industry gradually increased. In 1980, it accounted for 58.9 per cent of the nation's total investment in capital construction. By the end of that year, the fixed assets of the nation's industrial enterprises were 410,000 million yuan, calculated according to their original value, 27 times the 1952 figure (more than 30 times the 1949

figure). In Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang, Taiyuan, Anshan, Wuhan, Chongqing and other old industrial bases, significant progress has been made. In addition, new industrial bases have also been established in Beijing, Xian, Luoyang, Lanzhou, Harbin, Daqing, Baotou (in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region), Baoji (in Shaanxi Province), Panzhihua (in Sichuan Province) and Zhuzhou (in Hunan Province), and other cities, thus yielding a more rational distribution of the nation's industry. Industries in the interior, including the minority nationality areas, are developing rapidly. Their production has increased from no more than one-fourth of the nation's total industrial output value in 1949 to the present figure of one-third.

China has now established an industrial system with a relatively satisfactory diversification and rational distribution. The older industries — textile, coal, electric power, iron and steel, oil, chemical and machinery — are surging rapidly ahead. Aviation, auto and tractor industrial departments have been newly established. Also many modern industries — synthetic fibres, plastic, electronics, atomic energy — have been set up. China's industrial productive capacity has markedly increased. In 1980, the gross industrial output value reached 499,200 million yuan, 46.2 times greater than in 1949. Output of some major industrial products went up by several, dozens or even hundred times (see table I).

But, there are still weaknesses. China's industrial sector is not organized appropriately internally. The technology of the products and factory equipment are relatively backward. The quality, quantity, and variety of some products do not satisfy the needs of our developing national economy.



Liaoyang Petrochemical Fibre Company.

3. The scientific and technological level has been raised.

New China has trained 9 million people with specialized skills and the number of workers and staff members has increased to over 100 million. China now has a contingent of technical cadres, administrative personnel and skilled workers who have relatively good training. It has begun work in numerous new and developing scientific and technological fields. Numerous technical breakthroughs have been made and some important achievements in scientific research have been recorded. China can manufacture electronic computers and complete sets of equipment for mining, metallurgy and electric power generating which are equivalent to those produced abroad in the mid-1980s. The advanced sciences and technologies of atomic energy, automatic control, laser and

Table I

OUTPUT OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

Products	1980 annual output		Increase over that of 1949 (times)
coal	620	million tons	19.4
crude oil	105.95	million tons	883.0
electricity	300,800	million kwh	70.0
steel	37.12	million tons	232.0
timber	53.59	million cubic metres	9.4
cement	79.86	million tons	121.0
chemical fertilizer	12.32	million tons	2161.0
machine tools	134,000		83
cotton yarn	2.93	million tons	8.9
sugar	2.57	million tons	12.8
bicycles	13.02	million	930.0

fluidics have been applied to industrial production. The nuclear bomb tests, the launching and recovery of satellites, the carrier-rocket experiments and the successful launching of a group of three spacephysics experiment satellites with a single carrier rocket on September 20, 1981 clearly illustrate the advanced levels of scientific research and production techniques in our country.

Our capability of manufacturing large-scale complete sets of equipment has markedly increased. China can outfit large complexes which produce annually 1.5 million tons of steel, 2.2 million tons of coal or refine 2.5 million tons of crude oil. China can manufacture in small quantities hydro-electric and thermal-power generating sets with a capacity of 300,000 kw, high-tension transformers with 330,000-volt capacities and large oil drilling rigs. At present, 95 per cent of the machine tools needed in the national economy are manufactured domestically. China also can build ships of the 10,000-ton class; oil tankers, docks and dredgers, and floating cranes, all of the 50,000-ton class.

The utilization of advanced science and technology in the iron and steel industry is remarkable. China can smelt over 1,000 kinds of steels and has mastered the very complicated

techniques in manufacturing new varieties of steels, such as high-temperature-resistant alloys for the aviation industry, pure iron for manufacturing accelerators, and precision alloy steels. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), China could only produce rolled steel with 400 separate specifications, but now it can roll over 20,000. It can turn out high precision products such as rockets, missiles and man-made earth satellites with domestically produced rolled steel.

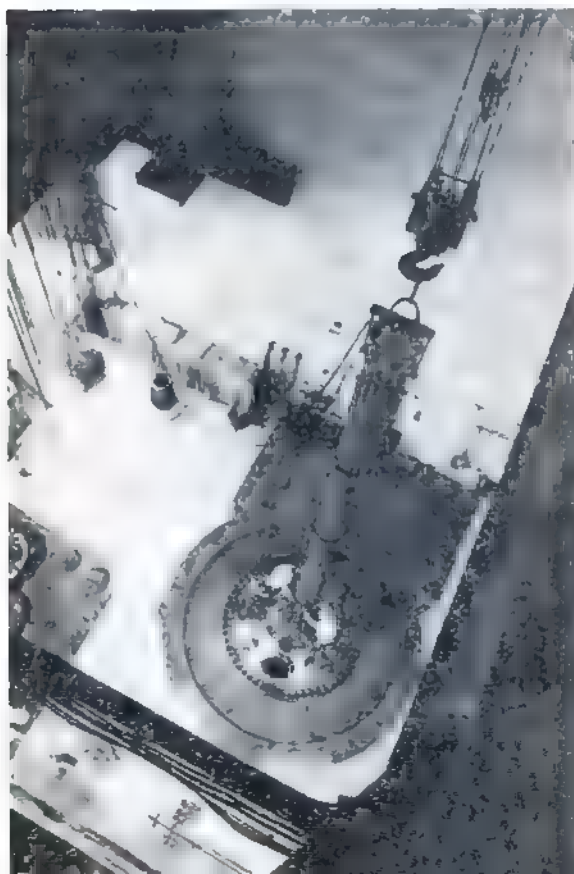
When compared with the advanced sciences and technology in foreign countries, China still lags behind. Some sectors are 10 to 20 years behind; others, 30 years.

4. The condition of agricultural production has markedly changed and the level of farm production has greatly raised.

From 1949 to 1980, the total investment in the nation's water conservancy construction totalled 100,000 million yuan. A large number of projects for flood control, irrigation, drainage and power generating have been built. Over 30 million hectares of low-lying land, saline and alkaline soil and hillside fields have been transformed or improved. Irrigated farmland has increased to 45 million hectares, 2.26 times more than in 1952. Forty-five per cent of the cultivated area in the country are irrigated. The Huanghe, Huaihe, Changjiang and Zhujiang Rivers have been harnessed and damage caused by floods has been initially brought under control. By 1980, 86,000 large, medium and small reservoirs with a total capacity of 400,000 million cubic metres had been built; power-pumped wells numbered 2.09 million. These installations have lessened the destruction from waterlogging and drought and thus ensured a high and stable yield in agriculture.

Farm mechanization has steadily advanced. The total power of farm machinery is 180 million hp, over 100 times greater than in 1957. China has 745,000 large- and medium-sized tractors and 1.87 million walking tractors. Forty million hectares of land are ploughed by tractors, an increase 300 times the 136,000 hectares in 1952. This accounts for 41.3 per cent of the cultivated area. There are 135,000 heavy-duty trucks used in agriculture, an increase of 470 times over 1952. Electricity used in agriculture now totals 32,100 million kwh, an increase of 640 times. In China today, there are a number of state farms and people's communes which are basically mechanized.

China's first high-flux test and research atomic reactor now in full operation in southwest China.



Owing to the accomplishments in agrarian reform, agricultural co-operation and farmland capital construction, farm production has developed rapidly. Last year, the total output value of agriculture reached 162,700 million yuan, an increase of 3.8 times over 1949, the annual increase being 4.4 per cent (see table II).

Table II

OUTPUT OF MAJOR FARM PRODUCTS

Products	1980 annual output (tons)	Increase over that of 1949 (times)
grain	318.22 million	2.8
cotton	2,707 million	6.1
edible oil	7,691 million	3.0
meat (pork, mutton and beef)	12,055 million	3.6 (over that of 1952)
aquatic products	4,497 million	10.0

Along with the development of farm production, the people's living standards have greatly improved. By relying on its own efforts, China, a developing country, has assured the basic food and clothing requirements for its 1,000 million people.

However, China's agriculture is still relatively backward. It mainly relies on manual labour. The proportion of marketable farm products is low. Agriculture must develop in order to be able to meet the expanding needs of the national economy.

5. Transport and communications, postal and telecommunications services — all have developed rapidly.

Transport and communications in old China were difficult. In 1949 there were only 22,000 kilometres of railways and 75,000 kilometres of highways; these connected a few big and medium-sized cities in the plain and coastal areas. Water transport and civil aviation were even more underdeveloped. New China had built 90 railway lines, totalling 52,000 kilometres by 1980, 2.4 times above that existing in 1949. All the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, with the exception of Tibet, can be reached by train. The construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway is under way. Large amounts of state funds have gone into building trunk highways and highway bridges; localities and the rural communes have also pooled money to build their own roads. As a result,

the whole country is crisscrossed by a highway network totalling 900,000 kilometres, almost 12 times longer than that in 1949. Over 90 per cent of the people's communes have become accessible by truck and automobile. There was only one highway bridge across the 5,000 kilometre-long Huanghe River in 1949; there are now 30.

Inland navigation, an important means of transport, has also come a long way since the founding of New China. The transport capacity of the 6,300-kilometre-long Changjiang River (the Yangtze) has increased 31-fold due to large-scale dredging. The other river systems, such as the Zhujiang (the Pearl), Huaihe and Heilong, have also been dredged and harnessed on a gigantic scale. The result: navigable inland waters total 136,000 kilometres in length. In Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin, Qingdao, Shanghai and along the Huangpu and Zhanjiang Rivers, over 70 deepwater harbours and berths have been built; the largest are capable of accommodating 100,000-ton-class oil tankers. Chinese ocean-going vessels now sail to 400 harbours in some 100 countries and regions, handling 70 per cent of the total volume of freight transport in China's foreign trade.

Chinese airliners are also serving 80 domestic cities and over 10 foreign countries.

All this indicates that China has initially built a transport network. However, transport and communications services in China are still rather backward. In eastern China, inadequate railway transport capacity is a liability and in many seaports delayed cargo traffic has caused

A commune's agrotechnical station in Henan Province popularizes the latest techniques.



serious problems. Transport and communications are still weak links in the whole chain of our national economic development.

Old China only had rudimentary postal and telecommunication services. Since 1949 an extensive postal and telecommunications network with Beijing as the hub has spread out across the land. The total length of mail routes now is 4.73 million kilometres, 7.7 times longer than that of 1949; telephone switchboards for inner-city calls now number 2 million, 6.4 times. The number of post offices in the rural areas has increased 68.6 times over that of the early post-liberation days, bringing postal service to 99.8 per cent of the people's communes. Ninety-six per cent of them are connected to the telephone network. In 1980, mail handled by the nation's postal service amounted to 1,330 million yuan in postage, 13.7 times that of the early post-liberation days.

Telecommunications with outside world have also vastly expanded. China today maintains direct or indirect telecommunication contacts with all the countries and regions in the world but without any communication links with south Korea, South Africa and Israel. Mail is already exchanged between China and 110 other countries and regions while telegram, telephone, and telefacsimile lines have been opened with 47 countries and regions. In addition, two communications satellite relay stations (built in Beijing and Shanghai with imported technology and equipment) enable China to have contacts with many other countries through communications satellites above the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

But the postal and telecommunications services in China are still not able to keep pace with the national economic development and the need for increased communications between people. There is still the shortage of telephone lines in the large- and medium-sized cities, and much remains to be done to make telephone service available throughout the nation. As to long-distance telephone service, there are too few lines available, and often there are delays due to equipment failures. The shortage of post offices and delivery vehicles hampers mail delivery.

6. People's livelihood has noticeably improved.

New China has delivered the broad masses of the labouring people from the abyss of misery and secured a basic livelihood for the

whole population. With the growth of production, the living standard has improved.

In 1980, per-capita consumption fund was 224 yuan, which, after adjustments for price changes, was still 99 per cent more than that of 1952, the year the national economy was restored to a record high level. This brought the average annual rate of increase to 2.5 per cent. A look at the 1980 per-capita consumption of a number of daily necessities in comparison with 1952 is illustrative: 213.5 kilogrammes of grain, an 8.2 per cent increase; 2.3 kilogramme of vegetable oil, 8.9 per cent higher; 3.85 kilogrammes of sugar, a 4.2-fold rise; 10 metres of cloth, 76 per cent more. The improvement in the living standard is also evident in the changes in the consumption mix in both the urban and rural areas, i.e., an increased proportion of expendable income is used for clothes and utensils and the portion of quality goods is rising over that of ordinary goods.

The health level of both the urban and rural population has markedly improved. mortality rate has dropped from 18 per thousand in the early years of New China to today's 6.2 per thousand, lower than the average of 15 per thousand in the low per-capita-income countries and the 11 per thousand of the medium



Peasants in Tianmen County — a famous cotton-producing area in Hubei Province — drying cotton in the sun.

per-capita-income countries. Average life expectancy has risen from 35 years in the old China to today's 68 years, 18 and 7 years longer respectively than in those countries referred to above.

That the people's livelihood has improved is

also evident in the increase of people's purchasing power and bank savings. In 1980 total retail sales reached 214,000 million yuan, 7.7 times the 27,700 million yuan of 1952; the peasants' savings deposits were 12,060 million yuan, 28 times the 430 million yuan of 1956.

The lot of the Chinese people has vastly improved over the last 32 years, but the living standard remains comparatively low. There are still 10 to 20 per cent of the people who are having difficulty making ends meet. This problem can only be solved step by step with the development of production and subsequent increases in incomes.

Since its establishment, New China has made progress in economic construction, but it has also suffered serious setbacks. What has been achieved still falls short of what should have been achieved when one considers the momentous efforts of the Chinese people and the superiority of the socialist system. 'As a developing country, we are still lagging behind the world's developed countries in economy, science and technology, and living standard. Nevertheless, we have set up a material foundation upon which we can gradually build China into a modern, powerful socialist country. □

At the United Nations

Soviet Aggression and Expansion Still A Major Threat to World Peace

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin, addressing the 36th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, spoke about the following points:

Soviet Global Strategy Remains Unchanged

AGGRESSION and expansion by Soviet hegemonism continue to be the major threat to world peace and the struggle against hegemonism remains the primary task for the maintenance of world peace.

International realities do not bear out the view that the Soviet Union launches a "peace offensive" because it is on the defensive and that its own difficulties are forcing it to consider a retreat.

Facts in the past year have shown that the Soviet Union has not given up its bid for world hegemony and the corollary strategy of a southward drive remains unchanged. However, because of repeated setbacks and its own vulnerabilities, the Soviet Union, while adhering to a policy of aggression and expansion, has increasingly resorted to political tricks. The Soviet Union has launched another so-called "peace offensive" by putting forward "political solutions" and proposals for disarmament and so on, which are designed to confuse public

opinion, to disguise its hegemonism and to deceive or lull the people of the world

Afghanistan and Kampuchea are top-priority issues in the overall world situation today. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and its support for the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea are not only aimed at subjugating the two countries, but also at using them as springboards for further expansion to close the ring around the oil-rich region of the Middle East, to push towards the Strait of Malacca and to increase the threat to surrounding countries and to the peace and security of the world. Many more countries will come to grief if the aggression against Afghanistan and Kampuchea is not checked and if the Soviet Union is allowed to press ahead its strategy of a southward drive.

China's Position on Afghanistan and Kampuchea

China favours a political settlement of the Afghan and Kampuchean issues. However, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the two countries is the primary condition for any political settlement. Only when the aggressors have suffered heavier and heavier blows on the battlefield and have been subjected to mounting pressure from the international community, will

they be forced to consider pulling out their troops. Therefore, to increase the pressure on the aggressors from all sides is precisely the way towards creating conditions for a political settlement of the Afghan and Kampuchean issues. Conversely, any attempt to weaken or break up the armed struggle against aggression or to strike a deal at the expense of the victimized peoples in exchange for concessions from the aggressors would only embolden the hegemonists and undermine chances for a genuine settlement.

The resolutions on Afghanistan and Kampuchea adopted by the UN General Assembly, the declarations adopted by the summit conference of the Islamic countries last January, the foreign ministers' meeting of the non-aligned countries last February and the international conference on Kampuchea last July have all stressed that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from both countries. Any settlement of these issues must be based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and the right of all peoples to determine their own destiny free from any foreign interference.

However, the Soviet Union adamantly refuses to leave Afghanistan and Viet Nam, which is backed by the Soviet Union, Kampuchea. This is the basic reason why the Afghan and Kampuchean issues are still unsolved.

Under these circumstances the Afghan and Kampuchean peoples are bound to carry on their sacred war in defence of their own countries. For its part, the international community is duty-bound to continue to support and assist in various ways the just struggles of the Afghan and Kampuchean peoples.

The position of the Chinese Government is that all foreign troops must be withdrawn from Afghanistan and Kampuchea immediately and unconditionally, that these two countries must be restored to their independent and non-aligned status and that the Afghan and Kampuchean peoples should be free to choose their own political systems and governments.

Following the settlement of the Afghan and Kampuchean questions in accordance with the above principles, the countries concerned should join in an international guarantee that there shall be no interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and Kampuchea and that their territory shall not be occupied or

used for encroachment on the independence and sovereignty of other countries in either region.

Israel Must Withdraw From Its Occupied Arab Territories

Israel has obstinately clung to its expansionist position. It has not only continued to obstruct a reasonable settlement of the Middle East question, but has become more reckless by committing fresh atrocities against the Arab countries and peoples in violation of the UN Charter and the norms of international relations. Israel must withdraw from Arab territories, including Jerusalem occupied since 1967. The Palestinian people must regain their national rights, including the right to return to their homeland and the right to self-determination and establishment of a state. The Palestine Liberation Organization, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is entitled to participate on an equal footing in a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question. All countries in the Middle East have the right to independence and existence.

The white racist regime in South Africa continues to occupy Namibia, strengthen the apartheid system in South Africa, and launch repeated armed attacks against the frontline states. It even carried out a large-scale invasion of Angola not long ago. China firmly supports the solemn resolution adopted by the UN emergency special session on the question of Namibia.

US Stand on Israel and South Africa Criticized

Crimes committed by Israel and South Africa have not only brought untold sufferings to the countries and peoples of those regions, they also have provided the hegemonists with more opportunities and pretexts for infiltration, posing a greater threat to peace in the Middle East and southern Africa and the rest of the world. The arrogance and defiance of Israel and South Africa are attributable, in a large measure, to US support and shielding.

The United States has repeatedly expressed its willingness to improve its relations with third world countries and to join them in safeguarding world peace. But what is the sense of expressing

(Continued on p. 29.)

Mammoth Washington Demonstration

MORE than 200,000 working people in the United States marched through the heart of America's capital on the afternoon of September 19 and rallied at the foot of Capitol Hill to protest the Reagan administration's policies that are hurting the rights and welfare of the American people.

The mammoth "Solidarity Day" demonstration was sponsored by the AFL-CIO and many non-union organizations including those of teachers and students, minorities, women, senior citizens, disabled citizens and churches. Workers charged that government policy was cutting down real incomes while increasing the number of unemployed. Students chanted opposition to the government cuts on student loans. Housewives expressed opposition to the welfare cuts. Retired people were against slimmer pensions and the disabled had slogans on their wheel-chairs protesting the reduction of subsidies. School children marched with posters opposing the reduction of the school lunch subsidy. This large turn-out of people from so many sectors was not accidental. An AFL-CIO document said that the announced Reagan budget cuts in welfare and public programmes would make the workers, children, students, the sick and the old lose some 210.4 billion US dollars by 1984, while the rich and the big companies, left untouched, would get from the tax re-

ductions profits totalling 286.1 billion US dollars.

In the parade 6,000 air controllers from all over the country were given rousing cheers. Many demonstrators displayed placards supporting the air controllers' strike and calling on the government to reverse its decision to sack the strikers. Black leaders condemned the administration's policy of racial discrimination. Leaders of women's movement denounced the administration for holding back women's rights. Many speakers at the rally pointed out that the civil rights and women's movements should join up with the workers' movement and carry on

the struggle together after the demonstration.

It was reported that the Reagan administration's reaction to the news of the mammoth "Solidarity Day" demonstration was frigid. It should be remembered that Reagan won a lot of workers' votes because the American people were fed up with the declining economy brought about by past administrations. They had wanted a change for the better. The demonstration has shown that their hopes have been dashed in nine months. Reagan has yet to put wholly into effect his economic recovery programme, but the workers have already felt their interests being gravely threatened. Which was why they took to the streets in such numbers.

—Yuan Xianlu

Moscow-Washington Talks

Another Round Begins

SOVIET Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, addressing the current UN General Assembly Session on Sept. 22, roundly abused the United States. US Secretary of State Haig listened impassively to the diatribe which he described later as "disappointing." An hour later, the US State Department announced that US President Ronald Reagan had written a letter to the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev a day earlier expressing willingness to hold genuine talks to "establish a framework of mutual respect for each other's interests and for mutual restraint in the resolution of international crises"

which could lead to a "solid and more enduring basis for US-Soviet relations than we ever had before."

On Sept. 23, Haig and Gromyko in a four-hour talk, described as "frank and serious," agreed on behalf of their governments to resume negotiations on Nov. 30 in Geneva on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. This announcement was contained in a US-Soviet joint statement released simultaneously in New York and Moscow on Sept. 24.

The Soviet Union is still occupying Afghanistan and supporting Viet Nam's invasion of

Kampuchea, bringing added pressure to bear on Poland and waging biochemical warfare in Southeast Asia. Against this background, the Reagan administration, which has all along been insisting that arms talks with Moscow should be linked to Soviet behaviour in various parts of the world, has now opened up a dialogue with Moscow. Does this mean that the US administration is making a concession to the Soviet Union?

US Tactics. After Reagan took office, he declared that the United States must enforce a hard-line policy to check Soviet expansion. Moscow answered with a combination of hard-soft tactics to split the United States and the West European countries. The wave of pacifism and anti-nuke sentiment, which has appeared in Western Europe, was used to the full. Earlier, Brezhnev had told some West European officials that if NATO gave up the deployment of medium-range missiles, Moscow would reduce the number of its guided missiles deployed in its western region. Apparently, Moscow's ploy has paid off. The rise of pacifism in Western Europe has put leaders of some European countries on the spot and relations between the United States and Europe have grown progressively tenser. It was this which decided the United States to change tactics and counterattack. So, after his visit to West Germany, Haig announced that the United States was prepared to give up plans for a new European missile system if Moscow withdrew its SS-20 medium-range missiles targeted on Western Europe.

Although the door to negotiations has now been opened, some US papers claim that it is still very difficult to reconcile

China Signs UN Weapons Convention

CHINESE Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ling Qing on September 14 at the headquarters of the United Nations signed on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. He also handed over a written statement to UN Under Secretary-General Erik Suy.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China deems that the basic spirit of the convention reflects the reasonable demand and good intention of numerous countries and peoples of the world regarding prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which are excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects," the statement declared. "This basic spirit conforms to China's consistent position and serves the interest of opposing aggression and maintaining peace."

"However, the convention fails to provide for supervision or verification of any violation of its clauses, thus weakening its binding force. The protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices fails to lay down strict restrictions on the use of such weapons by the aggressor on the territory of his victim and to provide adequately for the right of a state, victim of an aggression, to defend itself by all necessary means. The protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of incendiary weapons does not stipulate restrictions on the use of such weapons against combat personnel."

"It is the hope of the Chinese Government that these inadequacies can be remedied in due course," the statement added.

The convention was adopted at the United Nations Conference held in Geneva on October 10, 1980. Forty-three countries have signed the convention since April 10, 1981.

the global confrontation between the two countries. In his letter to Brezhnev, Reagan asked Moscow to abandon its attempt to obtain unilateral advantage in third world countries and to stop its intervention in Poland.

But in his speech at the UN, Gromyko once again asserted that Moscow had the right to uphold its "legitimate interests" in all parts of the world, including the right to fulfil commitments to its allies. He turned round and censured Washington for its intervention in Afghanistan, Indochina and Poland. Although details of the Haig-Gromyko talks have not been disclosed, diplomatic circles in general think that the talks have settled nothing.

Moscow's Lure. The US press

have revealed that there are still differences as to what kind of weapons should be included in the November arms control talks. The United States holds that discussions should be confined to SS-20 missiles deployed by the Soviet Union, and the Pershing-II missiles and land-based cruise missiles which NATO plans to deploy. Moscow insists that the "forward base system," namely bombers and guided missile submarines in Western Europe, ought to be included in the talks too. The United States hopes to change the military inferiority of the West in Europe through talks and at the same time improve US-European relations so as to help West European leaders to convince opponents in their countries they should implement the

"double resolution" (i.e., modernize NATO's nuclear forces while negotiating with the Soviet Union). The Soviet Union has exactly the opposite aim. It wants to maintain and improve its superiority in Western Europe through talks. Brezhnev's offer to reduce Soviet SS-20 missiles directed against Western Europe is nothing

but a means to tie NATO's hands and stop it from deploying its new missiles.

For all the blather, the announcement of the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union merely signifies that another round in the fight has begun.

—Yuan Xianlu

Mexico's Independent Diplomacy

MEXICO, in recent years, has been playing a more active role in international affairs, a role distinguished by its clear-cut independence and multi-lateral nature. It is emerging as a major political force of the third world and is winning itself greater standing in the world.

Economy and Independence

Mexico's standing and role in international affairs are closely tied to its upbeat economy. Its economic performance in recent years has been quite striking. While there is distinct economic malaise in the world, Mexico has managed to achieve a sustained and high-speed development. Its annual average growth rate for the past four years is upwards of 8 per cent and that for agriculture is 4.5 per cent. With known oil deposits placed at 72,000 million barrels and a daily output of 2.35 million barrels, Mexico leads all oil-producing countries in Latin America and is fourth in the world. Last year its per capita income was 1,734 US dollars.

Economic strength has bolstered Mexican independence

and boosted its standing in the world. As the third biggest trading partner of the United States, Mexico's economic importance to its northern neighbour is quite obvious. Politically, too, the United States is paying more attention to what Mexico has to say.

Against Outside Interference

In issues affecting Central American countries, Mexico upholds the principle of self-determination for the peoples of all countries and is against outside interference. President Portillo has pointed out that Mexico does not agree to and objects to any form of intervention in this region, particularly that of the two superpowers.

The Mexican Government is convinced that if the socio-economic causes of trouble in Central America are not eliminated, there can be no stability or democracy or an easing of tension in this region. This is seen as the cornerstone of Mexico's foreign policy. From this, Mexico first of all reached an agreement with Venezuela to supply oil and low-interest loans on favourable terms to nine countries in Central

America and the Caribbean to develop their economies. Since this year, to help mitigate economic difficulties and thus help stabilize the political situation in this region, Mexico has held a series of bilateral and multi-lateral consultations with Canada, the United States and Venezuela to study a project on providing economic aid to Central American and Caribbean countries. Political unrest arising from socio-economic problems affords outside forces opportunities for intervention and infiltration in Central America.

North-South Dialogue

Over the past two years, the President and the Foreign Minister of Mexico have visited a number of major countries to hold broad-ranging discussions on major international questions. Because Mexico is concerning itself particularly with the third world, it is sponsoring a North-South summit to be held in Mexico in October, with more than 20 state and government leaders, including China, participating. Explaining Mexico's proposal, President Portillo said: "This proposal provides the indispensable political impulse to keep economic negotiations between the developed and developing countries from stagnating and failing" so as to rearrange present international economic relations. This proposal and position of the Mexican Government are endorsed by the third world and West European countries.

During President Portillo's visit to the United States last June, President Reagan accepted his invitation to attend the proposed summit, but the

Mexican Government was not able to persuade the other superpower, the Soviet Union, to attend. This cannot be construed as a diplomatic setback for Mexico. It only illustrates that superpower's lack of sincerity when it claims that it is the "natural ally" of the developing countries, and its indif-

ference to the fate of the developing countries.

Mexico's more active participation in the international arena shows that the world is no longer for superpowers to do as they please. The third world countries can and should play their part in international affairs.

—Guo Weicheng

The Year-Old Iran-Iraq War

WHEN war broke out between Iran and Iraq last September, no one believed that either belligerent would fight a long war which endangers its most precious asset: oil. It was thought that if neither could procure a continuing supply of weapons and parts there would be an early ceasefire.

But this view has not been borne out. The war is now a year old and shows no sign of abating. Iran has mounted several counterattacks this year but the situation remains much the same. The bombardment goes on, each day expending huge quantities of ammunition with relatively little loss of life and very little gain. This war which uses petro-dollars to destroy petroleum facilities is reaching a stalemate.

Losses

The war has exacted more than 20,000 lives. Iraq is said to have sustained economic losses estimated at well over 20 billion US dollars. Its oil exports have dwindled to a third of its prewar figure. Iran has suffered more as the war is being fought on its territory and moreover in its oil-producing province of Khuzistan.

Iraq may think it has more to gain from a war of attrition. It

is reported that it has a hard currency reserve of over \$30 billion and could last out another year. But it is paying a staggering price all the same. So many people have been mobilized for the war that the work force in construction alone is depleted 40 per cent.

Iran's economy is based on the oil industry, already badly battered in the war. The famed Abadan refinery is in a shambles and about 1.5 million people in the war zone have been made homeless.

Dilemma

Most people in the world did not and do not want to see Iran and Iraq fight each other. Right after the outbreak of the war, the UN Security Council passed an urgent resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire. This year, a UN special envoy, a goodwill mission of the non-aligned movement and a mediation group of the Islamic conference have shuttled between Teheran and Baghdad to mediate, but nothing tangible has emerged so far.

Iran insists that a ceasefire must be accompanied by an Iraqi troops withdrawal, and Iraq says that it will agree to a pullout only when Iran rec-

ognizes what it calls its legitimate rights.

After a year of mediations, the issue now centres on the disputed Shatt-Al-Arab waterway, where more than 60 foreign freighters are stranded.

It is hard to see the two belligerents reaching an agreement over the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway. Iraq fought to get exclusive control of this waterway and it will not be likely to give up its claim. Iran feels that its prestige is at stake in the Gulf region if it makes concessions. This is the crux of the dilemma.

Best Way Out

Militarily, Iran and Iraq are about equal, and both have elements of instability at home. It is very difficult to see either side enlarging the conflict and equally difficult to see them giving up the fight altogether. So it is very likely that the war will go on and on. There is no denying that a long drawn-out war will bleed both countries white and also make the already troubled Gulf region even more turbulent and unstable. For Israel, the conflict has been a godsend and the superpowers have been sorely tempted.

The United States wants to restore stability upset by the fall of the Iranian monarchy. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, wants to capitalize on this development to expand its influence in this oil-rich region. Moscow's professed neutrality in the Gulf war stems from the realization that any pro-Iran move on its part would alienate the majority of the Arab countries. Meanwhile, it is biding its time, waiting for its surrogates in Iran to accrue

strength and for Washington to make all the mistakes.

It is quite apparent that the longer the Iran-Iraq war lasts the more it hurts the two countries and pains their

friends. The only beneficiaries are the two superpowers. The best thing is for the two countries to find an overall solution to the conflict while they still have the strength.

That will be immensely helpful to Iran and Iraq and to the restoration of peace and security in the Gulf region.

— "Beijing Review" news analyst Yu Pang

(Continued from p. 24.)

such sentiments when instead of denouncing Israel and South Africa for their flagrant breaches of the norms of international relations they are supported and abetted? This only antagonizes the hundreds of millions of Arab and African peoples and a large number of third world countries.

The Caribbean Situation

The situation in the Caribbean region merits our attention. In some of the countries there the people have long been subjected to imperialist and colonialist exploitation and oppression and live in unbearable domestic political and economic conditions. It is their inalienable right to uphold their national independence and state sovereignty, develop their national economy and carry out democratic reforms. This should be recognized in the first place. On the other hand, it must be noted that another superpower and its proxies have been meddling in the internal affairs of those countries and are trying hard to infiltrate the region under the guise of supporting the progressive movements. In our opinion, the people of the region should be left alone to solve their own problems. We are opposed to all outside interferences no matter where they come from.

Help Developing Countries in Building Up Their Economies

The developing countries' efforts to achieve economic independence after winning political independence are an irresistible trend of our time. The major developed countries, however, refuse to go along with this trend by changing their unequal and unfair relations with the developing countries. This is the root cause for

the ever-sharpening economic contradictions between the North and South. The economic difficulties of the developing countries and the resultant domestic political turmoil and the worsening North-South contradictions will provide hegemonists with opportunities to create trouble. To support developing countries in building up independent economies and to promote appropriate reforms in the international economic order so as to establish step by step a new international economic order is, therefore, not purely an economic matter but a vital political question that affects the maintenance of world peace and stability.

It is our hope that the major developed countries will proceed from the overall situation of the world and give serious consideration to the legitimate desire and demands of the developing countries, promptly come to an agreement at the current session or at the forthcoming Cancun summit to launch global negotiations and take practical measures to meet the urgent needs of the developing countries and to improve North-South relations.

Strengthen Unity Against Hegemonism

We have to struggle for peace; we cannot beg for it. To defend world peace, it is imperative to oppose hegemonism. To this end, peoples of all countries should unite and coordinate their actions taken in the light of their respective situations. In order to achieve greater unity against hegemonism, it is necessary for all parties to respect each other's sovereign rights and interests and to treat each other as equals. On the eve of World War II, certain countries failed to discern in time the source of the threat and failed to unite effectively to oppose such a threat. The people of the world ended up paying a heavy price. The world learnt a bitter lesson. □

PLAY

Ah Q on Stage

During the end of September the Central Experimental Drama Troup in Beijing opened a seven-act dramatization of Lu Xun's novella, *The True Story of Ah Q*.

The warmly received play was one of the numerous events commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lu Xun.

Originally published in 1921, the story is about a farmhand who wanders through the southern Chinese countryside around the time of the Revolution of 1911. The hardworking Ah Q is cruelly exploited and oppressed by the feudal class. But because he is too vain and stupid to recognize the abuses, he forgets his enemy's cruelty all too soon. Eventually the landlords make him a scapegoat and execute him but he dies without even knowing why.

Ah Q's character is both pitiable and irritating. Lu Xun used the novella to show the root cause of the diseases of the

old society and to draw the attention of the people to the question of how to cure them. One is grieved by Ah Q's misfortune, Lu Xun said, but angry at his willy-nillness.

Although Ah Q is unhappy with the treatment he receives, he does not fight back; instead, he believes in "spiritual triumph," by which a loser in daily life becomes a winner in the imagination. Cowering before those in power, Ah Q lords it over those weaker than himself, boasting that someday he will become somebody—a claim he cannot live up to. This morbid mentality of simply accepting abuse and imagining victory reflects the influence of the ideology of the feudal ruling class of the time. The concept of "spiritual triumph" has come to be called the "spirit of Ah Q."

Although Ah Q has become widely known in China over the past half century, the novella is extremely difficult to stage because it relies on character development rather than exciting action or a complicated plot. Yet the seven-act Beijing performance has been a big hit,

undoubtedly because of the combined talents of the playwright, directors and performers.

The stage adaption was written by Chen Baichen, a famous dramatist with decades of creative experiences behind him. The play is faithful to the original, adding no new characters and threading Ah Q's "spiritual triumph" throughout the seven acts.

Directors Yu Cun and Wen Xingyu use a woman narrator in modern attire who appears from time to time among the characters wearing Qing Dynasty clothing. Reciting Lu Xun's original words, she helps guide the audience through the episodes, and serves as a bridge between the drama and the audience, showing them the meaning of Ah Q for present-day China.

Actor Lai Kesheng, in the title role, displays a penetrating understanding of his part. With humorous, thoughtful and somewhat exaggerated acting, he brings before the audience a fascinating image of Ah Q, who is a naive and foolish peasant.



Ah Q in his complacency.



Ah Q in jail.

on the one hand but acts like a cunning vagabond on the other. All this apparently strikes a deep chord for the audience.

The play also represents new developments in the use of set design. Skillfully painted mobile scenery gives the audience the flavour of the southern Chinese landscape, but can be adjusted to show changes in time and space. The effect is at once true and surreal, and ably supports the unfolding of the drama.

SPORTS

International Marathon Race

The 1981 Beijing International Marathon Race was held on September 27 when the temperature was 13° C, favourable for long-distance running. The wind was a bit strong, 4-5 metres per second.

Taking part in the race were 75 long-distance runners from 11 foreign countries and China.

Thirty-five-year-old Kjell Erikstahl of Sweden crossed the

finish line first with a time of 2 hours, 15 minutes and 20 seconds. But the close competition was for second and third, where Norwegian Inge Simonsen held on to finish in 2:15:51, one second ahead of Korean Li Jong Hyon.

Peng Jiazheng from Yunnan Province, first among the Chinese athletes, placed 15th, with the respectable time of 2:26:03. The next two Chinese runners were Yang Lin and Fang Nenshun, who placed 18th and 20th respectively.

The sport of marathon has a history of some 20 years in China and has become increasingly popular in recent years. Though Chinese athletes did not finish among the first 10 runners this time, the holding for the first time of an international marathon race in China provided needed experience for them. They learnt a great deal from the foreign competitors and now must train hard in order to become ranked among the world's top long-distance runners.

The evening following the race, an award ceremony jointly sponsored by the Chinese Athle-

tic Association and the Marathon Race Organizing Committee was held at Beijing Hotel. Vice-Premier Yang Jingren awarded cups to the first 10 finishers, and Keizo Saji, President of Suntory Limited of Japan, who helped in organizing the marathon, presented a special cup to the champion.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Glass Remnants

Some colourful pieces of glass were found by excavators in a tomb of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) in the northeast part of Nanjing.

These pieces of glass, light green, dark brown and deep blue, are fragments of various objects. Their transparency is almost up to contemporary standards. It is the first time that glass in so many colours has been discovered in one single tomb of the Nanjing region.

Glass, called *liuli* in ancient China, was not made in the country until the 5th century. Specialists therefore think that the unearthed glass must have been produced in ancient Persia or Constantinople. The discovery thus provides important material for the study of exchanges between China and the West in ancient times.

This Eastern Jin tomb faces south. Inside, it is 7.87 metres long and 4.03 metres high and is divided into two parts, the corridor and the coffin room. In the tomb celadon bowls, gold, silver thread, and jade articles were also found. According to historical records, the tomb might be where Sima Dan, the last emperor of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, was buried.





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